

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 00446 071307Z

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ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 L-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-05 SAB-01 SAM-01 NEAE-00 IO-03

PRS-01 EB-03 PM-03 SP-02 /059 W

----- 067226

P R 071250Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2598

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 446

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, UR

SUBJ: SOVIETS PLEDGE FURTHER ASSISTANCE

TO SYRIA AND REPORTEDLY APPROVE EFFORTS FOR FURTHER

PARTIAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWALS

REF: DAMASCUS 395 (NOTAL)

1. ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR MANCIUR ADVISED ME FEB 6 THAT FONMIN GROMYKO STRESSED REPEATEDLY TO SYRIANS LAST WEEK IN DAMASCUS THAT USSR STOOD READY PROVIDE BOTH FURTHER MAJOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO SYRIA.

2. THIS ALLEGED SOVIET ASSURANCE IS BEGINNING TO BE HEARD FROM OUR PRIVATE SYRIAN BUSINESS CONTACTS. ONE ADVISED DCM THAT SOVIETS, IN GIVING VIRTUAL BLANK CHECK TO SYRIA, HAD UNDERLINED THIS MEANT THERE NO NEED FOR
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PAGE 02 DAMASC 00446 071307Z

SYRIANS TO LOOK TO WEST FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.

3. ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR ARGUED THAT GROMYKO VISIT HAD BEEN HELPFUL TO US DIPLOMACY. CITING BOTH SOVIET AND SYRIAN SOURCES, MANCIUR SAID SOVIET FONMIN HAD COMMENTED IN DAMASCUS RE DESIRABILITY OF CONTINUING EFFORTS TO SECURE FURTHER ISRAELI PARTIAL WITHDRAWALS, WHETHER JUST ON SINAI OR ON GOLAN AS WELL. THIS, GROMYKO HAD NOTED, WAS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH SYRO-SOVIET INSISTENCE ON IMMEDIATE CONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE.

M7RPHY

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